

**Top Secret**

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DIRECTORATE OF  
INTELLIGENCE

## MEMORANDUM

### *The Situation in Vietnam*

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9 May 1967

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Approved For Release 2004/03/18 : CIA-RDP79T00826A001900010054-6

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Information as of 1600  
9 May 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Heavy action in I Corps has shifted from US positions south of the DMZ to the area around Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:  
Fighting between US Marines and Communist forces broke out again near Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province (Para. 1). Extensive Communist fortified positions have been observed west of Khe Sanh into Laos (Para. 2).

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A group of 32 ethnic Khmer irregulars surrendered at the Loc Ninh Special Forces camp in Binh Long Province on 8 May (Para. 4).

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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

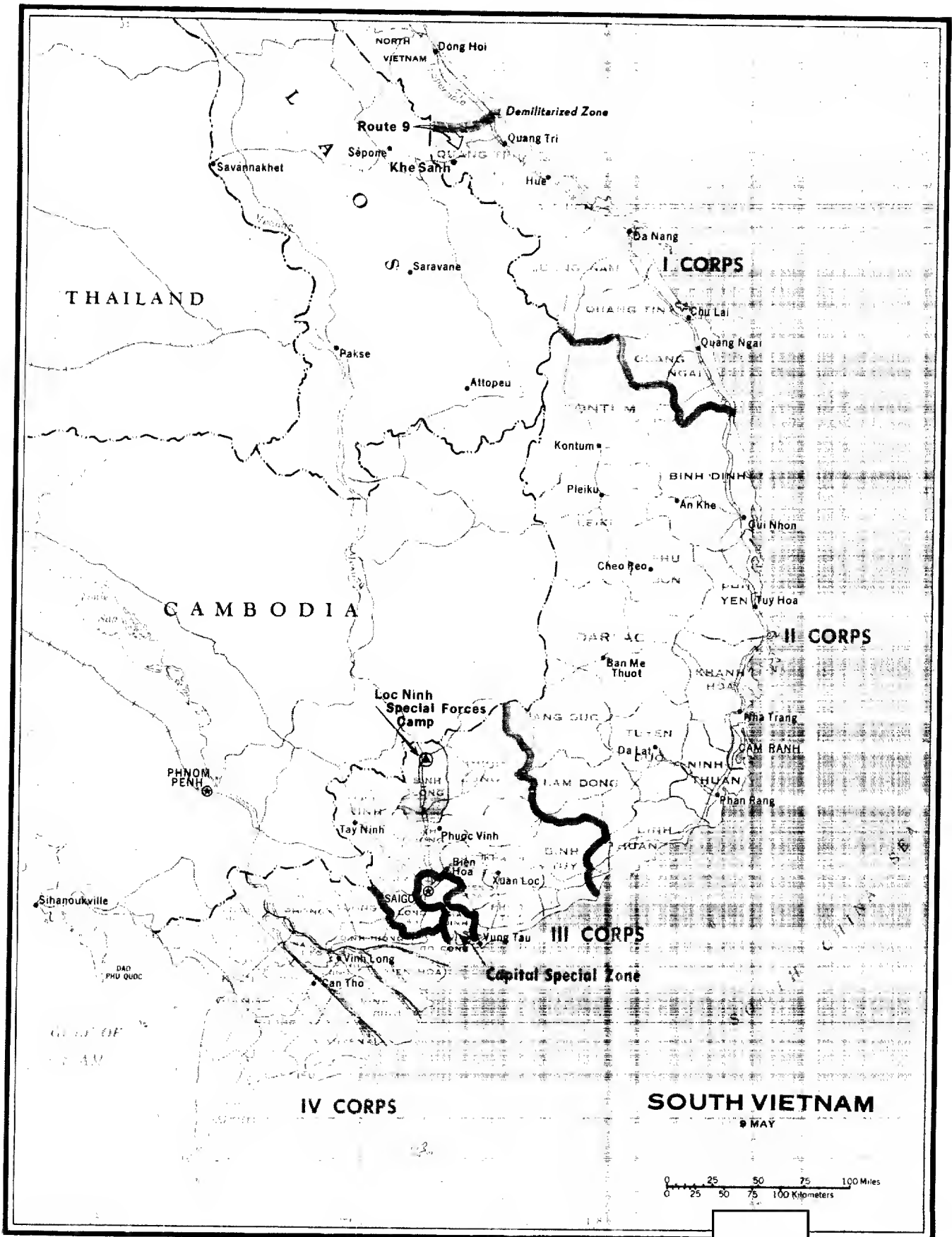
III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments:  
There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Action in northern I Corps has shifted from the US Marine positions immediately below the DMZ in northeastern Quang Tri Province back to the Khe Sanh area where a Marine company made heavy contact with enemy forces on 9 May. A preliminary casualty report indicates that 24 Marines have been killed and 19 wounded thus far, in contrast to enemy losses of 25 killed. The engagement is continuing, at last report, in an area seven miles northwest of Khe Sanh.

2. Extensive Communist fortified positions have been noted recently in this general area, extending northwest from Hill 881 into Laotian territory where aerial observation on 30 April revealed a major North Vietnamese complex of camouflaged bunkers and trenches. For the past several days B-52s have been bombing the positions northwest of Khe Sanh in western Quang Tri Province.

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Khmer Troops Defect to GVN in Northern Binh Long Province

4. A platoon of ethnic Khmer soldiers turned themselves in at the Special Forces camp at Loc Ninh in northern Binh Long Province on 8 May. The group consisted of two "majors," four "captains," and 26 enlisted men. The enlisted men were apparently

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members of an ethnic Khmer irregular force which has operated along the South Vietnam - Cambodian border for many years. One of the "majors" claimed that his battalion engaged a Viet Cong force several weeks ago and as a result was badly scattered. More than 20 American and French weapons were surrendered by the group. Interrogation of the Khmers is continuing and may provide further details.

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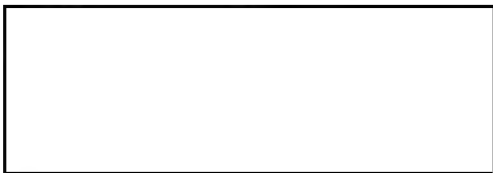
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